

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending. Claim 7 was previously canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 9 are amended. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to claims 3 and 5 because of informalities. In order to overcome this objection, claims 3 and 5 are amended herein in order to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over to Yamamoto et al. (JP 62192196);

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over to Yamamoto et al. in view of O'Connell (U.S. 5,743,646);

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al.;

Claims 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. in view of O'Connell; and

Claims 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 3, and 5

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, each of independent claims 1 and 3 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including

a hollow chamber cap having an upper side which is substantially flat, wherein substantially an entire upper surface of the upper side of the hollow cap is exposed to the water in the water gauge chamber, and

wherein a lower surface of the upper side of the hollow cap is formed with a recess serving as a seating portion.

Further, independent claim 5 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including

an outer tub of a washing machine having a bottom that is substantially flat, a side that is substantially cylindrical in shape, and a tapered portion between the bottom and the side;

a water gauge chamber extending along a portion of an outer surface of the cylindrical-shaped side and the tapered portion of the outer tub, and

a hollow chamber cap, located on a bottom edge of the water gauge chamber and overlapping the tapered portion of the outer tub.

Support for a hollow chamber cap having an upper side which is substantially flat, wherein substantially an entire upper surface of the upper side of the hollow cap is exposed to the water in the water gauge chamber, and wherein a lower surface of the upper side of the hollow cap is formed with a recess serving as a seating portion (as set forth in claims 1 and 3) can be found in the specification, for example, on page 6, lines 6-10. See also FIGS. 2 (a) and (b).

Support for an outer tub of a washing machine having a bottom that is substantially flat, a side that is substantially cylindrical in shape, and a tapered portion between the bottom and the side; a water gauge chamber extending along a portion of an outer surface of the cylindrical-shaped side and the tapered portion of the outer tub, and a hollow chamber cap, located on a bottom edge of the water gauge chamber and overlapping the tapered portion of the outer tub (as set forth in claim 5), is illustrated, for example in FIGS. 1 (a) and (b).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements set forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamamoto et al., and O'Connell.

For example, as can be seen in FIGS. 2 and 3 of Yamamoto et al., this document merely discloses a top surface of cap 17 being partially obscured by wall 2, and therefore not entirely exposed to the water.

Further, FIGS. 2 and 3 indicate that Yamamoto et al. fail to suggest an outer tub having a tapered portion between the bottom and the side; a water gauge chamber extending along a portion of an outer surface of the cylindrical-shaped side and the tapered portion of the outer tub, and a hollow chamber cap, located on a bottom edge of the water gauge chamber and overlapping the tapered portion of the outer tub.

O'Connell cannot make up for the deficiencies of Yamamoto et al.

Thus, at least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamamoto et al. and O'Connell.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are in condition for allowance. In addition, the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependence on allowable independent claims, or due to the novel features contained therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

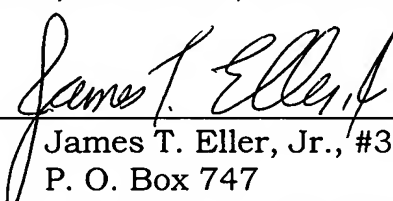
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.


If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000


JTE:CTT/ags/ndb